

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 IO-13 OMB-01 L-03
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

S E C R E T STATE 214097

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PINS, PINT, SHUM, SY

SUBJECT:HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS IN SYRIA

REF: DAMASCUS 4757

1. THE AGENDA FOR AUGUST 18 MEETING OF THE INTERAGENCY GROUP ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND FOREIGN ASSISTANCE INCLUDED THREE FY-78 SUPPORTING ASSISTANCE LOANS TO SYRIA. ALL THREE LOANS WERE APPROVED. HOWEVER, IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST FROM THE HUMAN RIGHTS BUREAU, DEP SEC CHRISTOPHER AGREED THAT A DEMARCHE MIGHT APPROPRIATELY BE MADE TO THE GOVERNMENT OF SYRIA ON QUESTION OF GENERAL HUMAN RIGHTS IN THAT COUNTRY. HE ASKED THAT WE SEEK AMBASSADOR SEELYE'S ADVICE AS TO TIME AND OCCASION FOR SUCH A DISCUSSION. ALL AGREED THAT IT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE TO RAISE THIS QUESTION WITH THE SYRIANS UNTIL THE SUBJECT OF FY-79 ASSISTANCE HAS BEEN DEALT

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WITH FAVORABLY BY THE CONGRESS. THERE WAS ALSO AGREEMENT THAT THE REPRESENTATION MIGHT WELL OCCUR WHEN WE CONVEY NEWS THAT WE ARE GOING FORWARD WITH SSA FOR FY-79 (ASSUMING THE SSA IS RESTORED).

2. PLEASE ADVISE WHETHER IN YOUR VIEW A MORE COMPREHENSIVE DISCUSSION WITH SYRIAN AUTHORITIES ON HUMAN RIGHTS COULD BE

HELPFUL AND, IF SO, SUGGESTIONS AS TO TIMING. WE WILL BE
HAPPY TO PROVIDE TALKING POINTS FOR YOUR DISCUSSION. CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

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